The Baily Tar Heel

81 Years Of Editorial Freedom

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Susan Miller, Editor

January 22, 1974

Board of Elections appointment smells

One of the good things that will probably come out of all the Watergate/Nixon administration scandals is that politicians may learn to be extra cautious in their actions, making sure that all is above board and undoubtedly ethical.

Before doing anything, the elected official should think of all consequences and decide whether he is doing the right thing, morally speaking.

We hope this thought preceded the appointment by Student Body President Ford Runge of his executive assistant. Richard Letchworth, to the position of Elections Board chairman.

Yet his announcement of this appointment, which has yet to be approved by the Campus Governing Council Appointments Committee showed not the least bit of concern that people might think the appointment a little bit on the shady

The thought did not seem to enter Runge's mind in considering this appointment that there is something wrong, ethically speaking, in appointing a person that has been vital in the "Runge administration" to a position that requires fairness and impartiality.

This is not to say that Letchworth will not be fair and impartial. He probably will be.

The announcement of the appointment showed little forethought on ethics, as Runge said Letchworth might keep his position as executive assistant, depending on the work load.

It looks like the only concern in the appointment was the work load. Letchworth has since quit his position as Runge's "right-hand man"; however, he will be keeping his same desk in Runge's Suite C offices. It looks as though the campus elections will be run directly out of Runge's office.

None of the circumstances of this appointment show concern that the running of the student elections appear fair. It is also unfortunate Runge appears to know no one unconnected with his administration who can handle the job in a competent and fair manner.

S.C.A.U.

Consumerism and free enterprise

"Warning to all incoming students: Chapel Hill is a Rip-off."

Remember hearing that from your friends when you were accepted here? Remember saving that to the new group as they were being accepted here? You probably do. It was probably yesterday or five minutes ago. To a large extent, Chapel Hill still is a rip-off.

Until recently, merchants in this area had no way of knowing or discovering what students and other consumers wanted. All businesses knew was that they were staying in business. Since they were staying in business, their products must be selling; and if their products were being bought, then the customers must be happy. Right?

Wrong! The syllogism is logical enough, but it does not explain the persistent truism above. Obviously, communications between consumers

and merchants in Chapel Hill is lousy. The Student Consumer Action Union was formed to give the Chapel Hill consumer a voice and to give the Chapel Hill business community a tangible mechanism to respond to. SCAU is not only discounts and pamphlets. SCAU also investigates consumer complaints concerning anything from apartments to shoes.

The complaints are taken in person in Suite C of the Union or over the Hotline (933-8313).

Complaint investigators (student volunteers) contact the businesses and hear their side of the story. Misunderstandings are cleared up; compromises are made; and new policies are initiated. The consumers gain by being better educated and getting their money's worth. Business people gain by developing better consumer relations. Good relations with customers mean better business, not merely staying in business.

An example of SCAU action came last November. A student came to SCAU complaining about a pair of shoes he bought in Chapel Hill. He wore them for two weeks, and they fell apart. Naturally, he took them back to be repaired. The manager said he would charge the student a \$4 wearing fee plus repair costs.

Then the manager said the wearing fee would be \$10. The shoes were \$25 originally. They would end up costing the student around \$40 and two months of time that he was not able to wear the shoes because they were somewhere in Connecticut being repaired. Then the student brought the problem to SCAU because he was not

getting his money's worth. He also was not satisfied with the stories he was getting from the manager. One of SCAU's investigators went to work on the problem.

Although this student waited a long time before bringing his problem to SCAU, it was not too late to do something. Fortunately, the student had been polite and had not created any antagonistic feelings. When the SCAU brought the situation to the attention of the store owner, a new pair of shoes was given the customer. Moreover, the owner apologized for the inconvenience.

Most local businesses still adhere to the slogan "the customer is always right." If they are not giving consumers what they think is right, it is because the consumer is not speaking up. Do not wait until everyone concerned has forgotten the incident. If you've got the "ripped-off" blues, use the Hotline (933-8313). Call SCAU and gripe.

Consumer protection is an important factor in free enterprise. Consumers must vocalize what they want so business can produce sellable products. This is the Student Consumer Action Union's purpose and this is what SCAU will continue to work for.

Bruce Sampson

Wrong number leads to security leak

Ah winter, thunderstorms, sunny days, Dean Smith, rain, and the biennial defeat of UCLA. It was enough to make you wanna throw up. Mike sat up and looked into the mirror and frowned, "Shit! Classes. Where the hell does the weekend go?" Suddenly the telphone rang in the living room. Jumping out of bed, Mike stepped into a fresh pile of dog shit, and then encountered it's former owner, "Goddamn dog," he shrieked.

kicking the dog very un-SPCA-ish.

"Hello!" "Mr. Canalope?"

"No this is . . .

"Mr. Canalope this is Henry Bismark Johnson III of the Mobile Oil Credit Card Bureau in St. Louis. Your last payment has not yet been received by us and if

"Hey man my name is Michael Ross!" "Trying to hide from us will do you no good, Mr. Canalope. We, here at Mobile Oil. have the best credit card surveilence system in the Nation. Why right now our spies are to fly into the room through the windows. watching you."

Mike hurriedly covered himself, not

wanting some Bernard Barker type getting his jollies from seeing him there talking on the phone, with dogshit all around his foot. "Listen man, I ain't who you're looking for and what kind of spies are you rattlin' about

"Well, Mr. Canalope, since the oil crisis has started, the President has given each oil company a national security rank. Therefore, in the interest of national security, and in order for us to stay in business, we must start surveilence procedures against our customers for the

good of the country. "This is crazy, some kind of a crazy dream," Mike said. But the smell of decomposed Purina Dog Chow convinced him otherwise.

"Oh, I assure you, Mr. Canalope this is no dream. We are very real. As a matter of fact we have your parents under surveilence as well as your girlfriend and we have strong suspicions that you may well be a Communist or Pro-Arab. So as I was saving your failure to pay the balance of this bill may result in your deportment as well as

"Deportment! Communist?" Joev is that you? Come on man, don't keep bullshitting

me, I'll be late for class." "Sir, I have previously stated that my name is Henry Bismark Johnson III and I

"Okay Joey, enough is enough. Now you either tell me You're kidding or I'M

GONNA HANG UP!" "I see, Mr. Canalope, that you are going to need persuasion. Therefore, you leave me no

alternative but to have my agents bring you In the background noise of the telephone. Mike heard a loud buzzing which

corresponded with a loud knocking on his door. The dog shit was not the only smell now in the room as tear gas canisters began

Gasping and strangled. Mike threw the receiver down and ran toward the back door which suddenly fell forward with a hail of machine gun bullets ripping through the wooden panel. In rushed four armed men wearing gas masks who surrounded Mike.

Nearly blind and strangled, Mike stopped still. He was supplied with a gas mask and ushered back to the phone. One of the men held up the receiver to Mike's ear. "Now then, Mr. Canalope, about the bill

that we so desperately need paid . "I'll pay, I'll pay, coughed Mike. "How much is it?" At this time a masculine voice broke in on the line, "Sir, your call has lasted nearly forty

minutes and the rate will triple at the sound of the gong." "Just a minute operator. I thought that the rates went down with the length of the call," Johnson said.

"Not with the Chapel Hill Phone Company sir. It is Our policy with the energy shortage and all that . "Wait," cried Mike. What number were

you trying to reach, operator? 967-0101? "Come Mr. Canalope why not consent to

"Excuse me sir did you say 967-0101?" the operator asked.

"Yes, that's me Mike Ross."

"So sorry sir, there must have been some mistake. Is this the residence of Mr. James O. Canalope?"

"No! It's me, Mike Ross!"

"I'm afraid I'll have to redial your call for you sir. But you will be charged for "Like hell I will," shouted Johnson.

Mike hung up the receiver with the operator and Johnson still arguing. The agents, without saying a word quickly left the apartment which now was wrecked. Mike, shaking, took off the gas mask. stumbled into the bedroom and fell down across the bed. Soon, however, he jumped

"Shit!" He'd forgotten to clean his foot

Jim Cooper

Politics and sports: strange friends

"Politics is like coaching football: you have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important."

-Eugene McCarthy

Such telling criticism is only too true of Richard Nixon. He understands politics too well for our own good, and combines the two with his constant football analogies. Gerry Ford, as we all now know, is a "team player." One wonders whatever happened to plain, old-fashioned statesmen.

Nixon seems to feel that his pigskin comparisons are effective, though few have proved phraseworthy. Perhaps football elicits a gut reaction in Americans which Nixon wishes to capitalize upon. Perhaps it speaks to the common man, or, to be less offensive, the Middle American. Perhaps Nixon only seeks to add inspiration to his leaden prose. But, more probably, he can't think in any other terms.

Too few political analysts have considered the meaning behind the football phrases, concerning themselves instead with quaint

idioms like "perfectly clear" or Ziegler's immortal "inoperative."

George Allen was painfully aware of the great difference between politics and football during the 1972 Super Bowl. Sometimes one sport may closely parallel another in minor detail, but these two American pastimes are fundamentally incompatible in their basic premises. Close analogy is detrimental to both sports and leads to further confusion of objectives and

Certainly it's fine for a President to think of himself as a quarterback if he wants to, but it is easy to extend the analogy too far.

"Winning is not the important thing, it's the only thing," is both a quote from Vince Lombardi and Richard Nixon's motto. Nixon seems to agree with most coaches in condoning foul play within certain broad guidelines, two opposite goals, and a huge arena. Teams function, by their very nature, without commitment or belief in anyone or anything outside themselves. To Nixon it doesn't really matter which way he's going as long as he's moving the ball.

Though Nixon's sense of political reality is accurate enough to give him success without achievement, victory without renown, even the ground he has gained seems to have been lost. Most of his team has been removed for foul play, he can't fake very well or give a decent pep talk, and he only seems able to throw the bomb. Or perhaps we should make that plural.

Thankfully, Henry Kissinger is a good downfield receiver and makes up for much of Nixon's inaccuracy and indecision. Even Rosemary Woods has become remarkably athletic to help out, but Nixon still has to punt a lot. Like ("I won't resign") Agnew, when Nixon is most defensive he becomes offensive. Four quarters with Nixon and politics would have remained a game. Eight quarters and it's a tragedy.

In the short space of one year Watergate became a floodgate, Americans have grown used to being kept in the dark, and Nixon still seems to have his edifice complex. The Year of Europe faded faster than Kohoutek. To make things still worse, mistakes breed more mistakes. In return for one gap on the

tapes we now have five, for one attorneygeneral we've had four, and for one ITT scandal we now have three: The Milk Fund. the Wheat Deal, and the Hughes Caper. People have watched Nixon's grandstand plays as eagerly as Monday night football, and as regularly.

And yet his incompetence is less noticeable because Congress and the Democrats have failed to seize the initiative and make their own opposing drive. As far as running the country goes, a President, even a bad one, just doesn't have much

Nixon continues to make as much yardage as possible with the tapes while the nation is tiring of the repetition, even of injustice. They turn off Watergate as quickly and as painlessly as the evening news, especially with the power shortages. Without voter concern Nixon may be the only man to live in the White House for four years and still not be President. Hopefully, our quarterback doesn't have the statue of liberty play next up

that has gone into the Judicial reform bill.

Letters to the editor

Reader questions sexual orientation members don't really care about all the work

To the editor:

Ms. Truitt Brown's letter to DTH of 1-18-74 is irritating, but mostly disheartening. I do not understand why a (possibly valid) argument concerning music criticism by Mr. Bisbort so casually and unnecessarily includes a put-down, albeit by implication, of gay people.

Ms. Brown comments: "Mr. Bisbort, I can readily tell that only of late did you discover music. I mean real music, not a bunch of long-haired faggots screaming obscenities and cute rhymes."

I wonder why the sexual orientation of the given musicians is of such importance that she feels compelled to refer to it in the terms used; the generalization is probably inaccurate, anyway, as well as irrelevant. Most importantly, the comment seems designed to evoke a distinctly negative reaction on the reader's part, and does so at the expense of homosexuals. I wonder why Ms. Brown feels her words/criticisms derive greater validity by derogatory reference to

"long-haired faggots." Ms. Brown, among others, may accuse me of over-reacting. After all, it was a peripheral remark, and (obviously?) unthinkingly

> Name withheld upon request

Student objects to offensive word

To the editor:

written. Who cares?

This letter is in response to Truitt Brown's letter in the Friday issue of The Daily Tar Heel. To be more specific it is in response to

one word in his letter: "faggot." I, as a homosexual, object to the use of this

word and others like it. It is a derogatory

remark and a siur against a segment of our population.

Many people who pride themselves on their open-mindedness and concern for the feelings of others; and who would never use such words as "nigger," "kike," "spike," "gook," etc. use "faggot" and "queer" without any hesitation.

People who use such epithets only reveal their own ignorance and bigotry. And, though the usage of such words as "nigger," "spick," etc. has ceased in intelligent circles, ne use of "faggot" still continues.

But times are changing. Homosexuality is now recognized in medical and psychiatric circles as an alternate life-style and not as a "sickness." It is time for the rest of the population to grow up and realize this fact and to remove such slurs from their vocabularies.

> Name withheld by request

WCAR performs useful function

To the editor:

There was a small article on the front page of The Daily Tar Heel Jan. 18 mentioning the fact that WCAR has only \$193 left and so Bill Snodgrass considers the managers incompetent and wants the station put off the air to avoid creating a deficit, which "Student government law does not allow."

I am only a freshperson here, so I don't know how the Yack is funded, but skipping merrily across the page I read that it has a \$2,000 deficit, which is a lot more in the hole than \$193. Flipping through to the editorial page we see that there has been no quorum at another meeting of the Judicial committee of CGC, leaving the impression that the Letters

here, and maybe more than some.

equipment.

The Daily Tar Heel provides the opportunity for expression of opinions by readers through letters to the editor. This newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters for li statements and good taste.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and must include the name, address and phone number of the writer. Type letters on a 60-space line and address them to Editor, The Daily Tar Heel, in care of the Student Union.



What must a girl go through to get an education?

The Baily Tar Heel

Susan Miller, Editor

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